

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 12693 230935Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 103863 /15

P 230705Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 578
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

S E C R E T TEHRAN 12693

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LE, IR
SUBJ: LEBANON SEEKS IRANIAN HELP

1. LEBANESE AMBASSADOR KHALIL TOLD DCM AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 22 THAT ON INSTRUCTIONS HE HAD APPROACHED PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA AND MINISTER OF COURT ALAM(FOR ONWARD TRANSMISSION TO THE SHAH) WITH AN OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR IRANIAN ASSISTANCE TO RE-ARM AND REHABILITATE LEBANON'S SECURITY FORCE. KHALIL SAID THAT A WELL-EQUIPPED AND FUNCTIONING LEBANESE SECURITY FORCE WAS ESSENTIAL TO THE COUNTRY'S REUNIFICATION AND RESTORATION. AT THE MOMENT ITS SECURITY FORCE IS VIRTUALLY HELPLESS AND "DOES NOT EVEN HAVE THE MEANS TO CONDUCT NORMAL SECURITY PATROLS EITHER IN THE CITIES OR THE COUNTRYSIDE." KHALIL'S REQUEST WAS COINED IN VERY GENERAL TERMS AND NO REQUEST WAS MADE FOR ANY SPECIFIC ITEM OF EQUIPMENT. THE IRANIANS RESPONDED THAT THEY WERE, OF COURSE, DEEPLY INTERESTED IN LEBANON'S RECOVERY AND WOULD BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE. WHEN IT CAME TO MILITARY EQUIPMENT, HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO GET THE APPROVAL OF THE ORIGINAL SUPPLIER BEFORE TRANSFERS COULD BE MADE. KHALIL SAID THAT HE ASSUMED THIS WOULD INVOLVE THE US ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT YET BEEN GIVEN A LIST

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 12693 230935Z

OF EQUIPMENT TO ASK FOR. KHALIL COMMENTED THAT HE HAD FOLLOWED HIS INSTRUCTIONS AGAINST HIS BETTER JUDGMENT, FEELING THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO SEEK ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE ONLY FROM IRAN AND SATISFY ITS MILITARY NEEDS ELSEWHERE.

2. KHALIL THEN GOT ONTO HIS FAVORITE SUBJECT OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON, SAYING THAT HE WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT AFFAIRS THERE. PALESTINIANS WERE RE-GROUPING IN SOUTH LEBANON, SYRIANS WANTED TO MOVE INTO THE AREA, AND THE ISRAELIS WERE THREATENING TO TAKE ACTION IF THEY DID. THE LOCAL POPULATION WAS DISPIRITED AND LEADERLESS. KHALIL SAID THAT HE WANTED THE DCM TO KNOW VERY, VERY PRIVATELY THAT THE ISRAELIS WANTED TO MAKE A DEAL WITH LEBANON ABOUT THE SOUTH AND THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT HE WAS TO HANDLE THE MATTER THROUGH CONTACT WITH ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVES IN TEHRAN. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE INITIATIVE WOULD BE COMING FROM THE ISRAELI SIDE. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE HAD EVER MET LUBRANI (UNOFFICIAL ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HERE), KHALIL SAID HE HAD NOT AND INDEED SEEMED TO BE VERY UNFAMILIAR WITH THE NAME. KHALIL SAID HE WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE SOUTH LEBANESE SITUATION AND WHAT WE THOUGHT THE ISRAELIS MAY HAVE IN MIND IT ,OF COURSE, WOULD BE MOST USEFUL TO HAVE ANY SUCH INFORMATION WE MAY BE ABLE OR WILLING TO PROVIDE BEFORE CONTACT IS MADE WITH THE ISRAELIS.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S AND INFO POSTS' COMMENT.
HELMS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY EQUIPMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TEHRAN12693
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760470-1113
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761215/aaaaamwn.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANON SEEKS IRANIAN HELP
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, LE, IR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006